

## Message Text

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63

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01

SAJ-01 AID-05 ACDA-05 /068 W  
----- 045506

R 160948Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2309

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

JCS

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

CINCPACREPPHIL SUBIC

CDR 13TH AF, CLARK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4813

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, RP, US

SUBJECT: SECURITY REVIEW STATE OFPLAY

1. TO ATTEMPT TO PUT DISCUSSION OF US-PHILIPPINE SECURITY  
RELATION INTO FRIENDLY PERSPECTIVE AND TO INTRODUCE  
MEASURED PACE INTO SEEMINGLY PRECIPITOUS TREND STARTED  
BY GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT APR 13, AMBASSADOR TOOK ADVANTAGE  
OF LONG STANDING SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT BEFORE PHILIPPINE  
AMBASSADOR' ASSOCIATION TO COMMENT. REFERRING TO GOP STATEMENT  
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THAT IT WOULD REVIEW RELATIONS WITH U.S., AMBASSADOR

SAID REVIEW WAS APPROPRIATE AND U.S. READY TO DISCUSS ANY READJUSTMENTS IN AGREEMENTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES HE STATED BENEFITS ACCRUE TO BOTH COUNTRIES, AND PHILIPPINES SHOULD REVIEW BENEFITS DISPASSIONATELY. WHEREAS BASES PROVIDED PHILIPPINES WITH SECURITY AND FINANCIAL BENEFITS, THEY PROVIDED ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO U.S. AND ALLOWED IT TO CONTRIBUTE TO BALANCE OF POWER IN AREA. "WE LOOK TO TIME NO U.S. FORCES WILL BE HERE. BUT WE DON'T THINK THAT DAY IS AROUND CORNER." HE CONCLUDED WITH HOPE THAT PHILIPPINES, AFTER WEIGHING ALL ALTERNATIVES AND OPTIONS, WILL COME TO CONCLUSION THAT "HER BEST FRIEND IS STILL THE UNITED STATES." LOCAL PRESS REPORTED AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH IN SURPRISINGLY ACCURATE AND VALUABLE DETAIL. UNFORTUNATELY, AP VERSION, WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN SEEN IN WASHINGTON, BADLY GARBLED AND CONFUSED.

2. PRESIDENT MARCOS, IN EFFECT, PICKED UP AMBASSADOR'S CALL FOR MEASURED, OBJECTIVE APPRAISAL OF SECURITY RELATION IN SPEECH TO NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE APR 15 REPORTED MANILA 4781 AND MANILA 4738. AT SAME TIME HE MADE CLEAR REVIEW WOULD BE IN CONTEXT OF FACT U.S. WAS CLOSEST ALLY OF PHILIPPINES. (REMARKS GIVEN EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE AND SUPPORTED BY EDITORIALS IN TWO PAPERS APR 16.) MELCHOR TOLD EMBASSY APR 16 THAT SPEECH REPRESENTED DELIBERATE AND AUTHORITY-ITATIVE DESCRIPTION OF APPROACH GOP INTENDED TO PURSUE IN ITS REVIEW OF SECURITY RELATIONS. AS EMBASSY KNEW, HE CONTINUED, PHILIPPINES HAD NO DESIRE TERMINATE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY BUT IT DID SEEK CHANGE IN MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. SECRETARY MELCHOR SAID PRESIDENT WOULD MAKE MAJOR SPEECH ON QUESTION SECURITY RELATIONS EVENING APR 16.

3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT HAS SPILLED WIND FROM SAILS OF MORE RADICAL CRITICS OF U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE HERE, AND HAS PUT REVIEW INTO BROAD GAUGED AND, WE FEEL, REASONABLE PERSPECTIVE. PRESS HAS BEEN PULLED INTO LINE AND EVEN VALENCIA, APPARENTLY RESPONDING TO DELUGE OF CRITICISM, REDUCED TO SPUTTERINGS IN APR 16 BULLETIN. SINCE OUR INTELLIGENCE INDICATED THAT IMELDA MARCOS HAD BEEN PRIME INSTIGATOR OF PRESS ATTACKS ON PHILIPPINES TREATY  
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RELATIONS WITH U.S., IT CAN BE SPECULATED THAT PRESIDENT'S ACTION INTENDED IN PART TO REIN IN HER PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN BEFORE IT GOT OUT OF HAND AND CAUSED MORE PERMANENT DAMAGE TO U.S. -PHILIPPINE RELATIONS.

4. EMBASSY WILL REPORT PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WHICH, WE ASSUME, WILL AMPLIFY BROAD GAUGED LINE.  
SULLIVAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, SPEECHES  
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**Draft Date:** 16 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** SECURITY REVIEW STATE OFPLAY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MARR, RP, US, (SULLIVAN, WILLIAM H)  
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